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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



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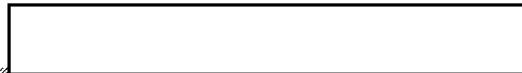
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5. USSR: Moscow extends death penalty to cover upwards of a dozen crimes. (*Page ii*)
6. Soviet propaganda stresses US role in South Vietnam. (*Page iii*)

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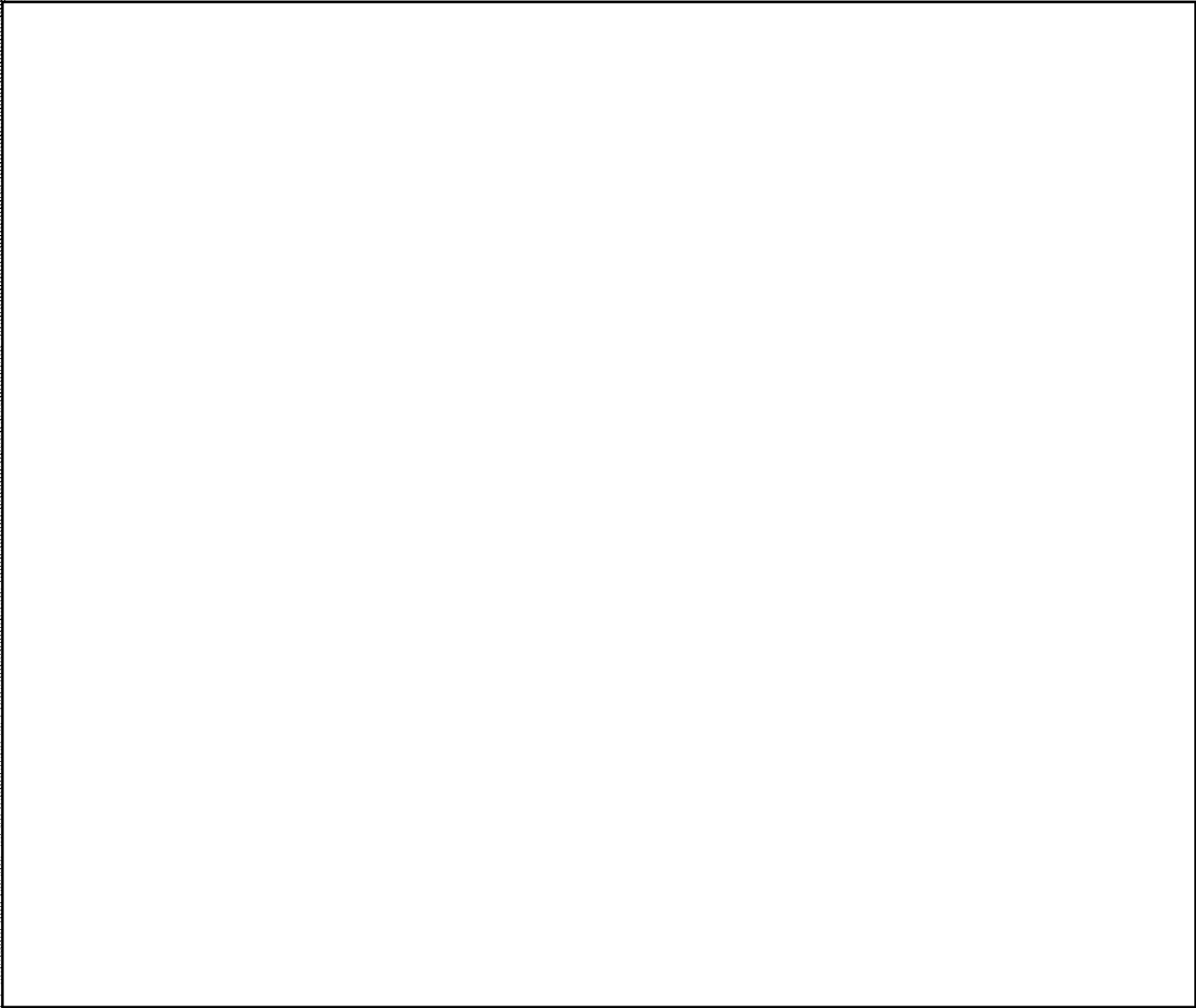
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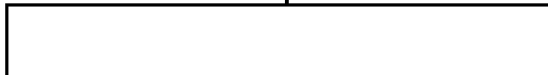
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DAILY BRIEF



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***USSR:** On 27 February, the Kremlin added bribe-taking, rape, and attacks on civil and volunteer police to the growing list of crimes which are punishable by execution. Since last May, the death penalty has been extended to embezzlement, counterfeiting, forgery, and speculation. Prior to that time--and under Stalin--only treason, espionage, sabotage, and murder were subject to capital punishment. Most of these new laws focus on bureaucratic malfeasance, and the harsh penalties introduced are a measure of the increasing cost to the planned Soviet economy resulting from corruption at all levels.

Responsibility for investigating the crimes described in last year's decrees was assigned to the secret police (KGB),

which will now probably assume jurisdiction over bribe-taking as well. The increase in KGB responsibilities may require some expansion of its investigative force, but it seems unlikely that party control over the secret police will be adversely affected. The Soviet people, however, will probably become increasingly fearful that Stalinist methods are being revived as more publicity is accorded KGB activities. The Soviet press can be expected to reassure the public, as it did last May, that the latest death decrees are aimed at an "insignificant" criminal element and do not portend any reversal of post-Stalin liberalization policies. [REDACTED]

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*USSR - South Vietnam: The Soviet press continues to give wide publicity to the increased role of the US in South Vietnam and, according to Ambassador Thompson, the Vietnamese issue takes second place in many papers only to commentary on Khrushchev's disarmament proposals. Moscow's stepped-up efforts in support of North Vietnam's position may signal stronger diplomatic representations to the UK and US. At a UN press conference, Soviet Ambassador Zorin has charged that US "aggression" in South Vietnam would bring "unpleasant consequences" for the US Government. The Soviet propaganda campaign seems to be in part a response to North Vietnam's urgent appeals to the Geneva cochairmen to take steps to "halt US armed aggression in South Vietnam." Moscow probably also hopes to inhibit further US assistance to South Vietnam by exciting international apprehension over the situation and to counter any charge by Peiping that it is not wholeheartedly supporting the "national liberation movement" in Vietnam. [REDACTED]

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DAILY BRIEF

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